

Minutes – St. Cecilia Pastoral Council
Tuesday, October 23, 2018, 7:00pm, St. Louis Room

Present: Father Jim Secora, Mark Moore (Finance Council), Reno Berg, Sarah Swanson, Mirna Canuso, Mark Sorrentino, Lois Lemkuhl, Matt Thatcher, Mike Dolan (Catholic School Board Chair), Sarah Mansell (Faith Formation Chair), Mary Staniger (Stewardship Rep), Nancy Jenson (Liturgy Rep)

Staff: Jarrett Wendt (Pastoral Associate), Bill Klein (Business Manager)

Guests: None Present

Notes By: Matt Thatcher

1. **Call to Order:** Reno called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. **Opening Prayer:** Sarah Swanson led the group in prayer.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** September 2018 Pastoral Council minutes were approved as submitted (no changes).
4. **Visioning Update:** Sarah Swanson updated the Pastoral Council on the Strategic Planning Initiatives for the Social Justice Committee: #1-Improve parishioner awareness and support available for parishioners in need, #2-Create a streamlined process for parishioners to get involved in service, #3-Promote involvement in advocacy of social justice issues, and provide channels through which to advocate, and #4-Encourage participation in Good Samaritan Black Bag Collection by showing what it does. Two initiatives (#1 and #4) were given a “green” rating and two (#2 and #3) were given a “yellow” rating.
Social Justice Committee is continuing to promote involvement using the bulletin board in the vestibule on the way into/out of church and using mass announcements and bulletin inserts. Lois and others raised suggestions to share more information about the envelopes in pews (what they are intended for) and for black bag collections. Mirna expressed that the Sun evening Spanish mass is not always hearing the same announcements as at the morning masses in English. Reno captured these suggestions/concerns to bring forward for Strategic Planning in January.

The following item from the September initiatives review (Pastoral Council) is being carried forward to the agenda for November. Council members were asked to review the survey given circa June 2016 (compiled by Rick Brimeyer) which is published on the parish website under “Parish... Reports”. This topic will be discussed further as an agenda item for the November meeting of the Pastoral Council (previously scheduled for review at the October meeting). Reno plans to meet with Rick prior to discussing at Pastoral Council.

<https://www.stceciliaparish.org/parish/reports/>

<http://www.stceciliaparish.org/wp-content/uploads/Parish-Survey-Results-June-2016.pdf>

5. **New Business:**
 - A. **REBOOT Success Report:** Though not all tickets were sold, attendance was good (Father estimated there to be 350 to 375 people). It was noted that there was a good contingent of middle school, high school and college aged students in the crowd. Books from the event are available for any parishioners who were unable to attend.
6. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Gmail accounts for all groups and committees:** Plans are moving forward to set up all ministry group leaders with official *@stceciliaparish.org* email addresses. Jarrett reviewed the names that will be used for each of the new addresses. Randy Dalhoff will set up the new addresses in the coming weeks. For the Pastoral Council email address, the initial plan will be to share a single email address between the Chair and Secretary, with the plan to later evaluate how that is working and create separate email addresses if necessary.
 - B. **Columbarium report:** The columbarium committee is interviewing columbarium companies (have met with Homecoming, Inc and are planning to visit with at least two more suppliers). They’ve prepared a survey to be given to parishioners in late Oct / early Nov to gauge interest in having a columbarium at St. Cecilia.
 - C. **Remodel update:** No update this month.

7. Committee and Board Reports (provided in packet):

- 1) Business Office-** Bill Klein reported that the processes and policies are being reviewed for distributing funds. Where appropriate, guidelines will be updated to try achieving more uniformity across all parish funds.
 - 2) Catholic School Board-** Mike Dolan reported that there is an ongoing focus on increasing enrollment. Mike will share enrollment trend data and exit survey information which will be distributed by the secretary prior to the November meeting of the Pastoral Council. The school board is developing a plan in conjunction with Ames Police for active shooter response and is targeting to develop a joint plan along with the church by June 2019. There was also discussion about the tuition assistance fund being low and the possible re-introduction of a referral program.
 - 3) Faith Formation-** Sarah Mansell stated that to begin this year there has been a shortage of catechists for some grade levels. Currently faith formation is still in need of 2 or 3 more catechists. Work is ongoing to brainstorm and develop strategies for filling the catechist position in future years.
 - 4) Finance-** Mark Moore reported that currently the parish spend is exceeding income. Offertory has been below budgeted levels.
 - 5) Liturgy-** Nancy Jenson and Father Secora shared information about the Shrine of Remembrance and expressed that there are ongoing needs to develop response plans and training for an active shooter emergency or medical emergency.
 - 6) Parish Life-** The Parish Life committee chose to keep the date for the Fall Leadership Social as Nov. 15. It is the same night as Peter Androshek so they will have the social from 5:45-6:45 in the St. Louis Room. (update shared by Kate Hartzler was not able to attend the PC meeting)
 - 7) Social Justice-** Sarah Swanson shared the following committee update: Social Justice brochures on Good Samaritan Collection were in the pews this past weekend. Paint Your Prayer is Sat 10/27 11:30 – 3:30, and there are still spaces available. Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance Choral Concert is Sun Nov 4 at Bethesda Lutheran Church (not sure if St. Cecilia is participating). A parish wide service project through the Franciscan Sister Water Project in Dubuque is being considered, most likely during Catholic Schools Week.
 - 8) Stewardship-** Mary Staniger shared that the Ministry Fair will be targeted for October next year. The committee is planning a spring event and considering having a catholic movie event.
- 8. Other Business/Additional Comments:** 1) Instead of committees reading and discussing a book at each meeting, Lois suggested getting each person a subscription to The Witness. 2) Initiative reviews are complete for this calendar year and will be resumed in March of 2019 using the same schedule as in 2018. 3) The 2019 Visioning meeting will be scheduled by Reno for January.
- 9. Once Around:** Each member shared a favorite memory from their years in school.
- 10. Closing Prayer:** Sarah Swanson led the group in a closing prayer.
- 11. Adjourn:** Reno adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

Next Pastoral Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 7pm

Prayer Leader: Sarah Mansell

Visioning Update: No update in Nov, Next update by Stewardship in Mar 2019